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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,120	12/21/2000	Chikara Uratani	36856.422	9930

7590 05/23/2002

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/745,120

Applicant(s)

URATANI ET AL.

Examiner

Alexander Gilman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kruppa et al.

Kruppa et al (US Pat. No. 6,081,996) disclose an electronic component comprising:

- an insulative case (30) made of resin;
- a plurality of surface-mounting terminals (16) mounted on said insulative case;
- at least one notch provided in said insulative case to accommodate a lead portion of at least one of surface-mounting terminals; and
- said notch defining a clearance between the solder fillet portion of (11, 12) and the insulative case

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claim 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriyama et al.

With regard to claims 1-3, 11, and 14, Kuriyama et al (US Pat. No. 6,068,499) disclose an electronic component comprising:

- an insulative case (2) made of resin;
- a plurality of surface-mounting terminals (12, 11) mounted on said insulative case;
- at least one notch provided in said insulative case to accommodate a lead portion of at least one of surface-mounting terminals; and
- said notch defining a clearance (Fig. 2,) between the solder fillet portion of (11, 12) and lower-side insulative case (2b).

Kuriyama et al do not disclose that the notch is extending entirely through the insulative case.

To extend the notch entirely through the insulative case would have been an obvious matter of design lacking criticality, since the function performed by the notch is the same.

The above mentioned limitation is not patentably significant since they relate to the size of the article under consideration which is not ordinarily a matter of invention. In re Yount, 36 C.C.P.A. (Patents) 775, 171 F.2d 317, 80 USPQ 141.

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It has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

With regard to claims 12, 13, and 18, Kuriyama et al disclose all of the limitations as applied to claims 1-3, plus a surface-mounting external terminal (40).

With regard to claims 4-6, 15, and 16, Kuriyama et al disclose the two portions (2a, 2b) of the insulative case, plurality of terminals (4, 5) and a groove (8, 9) which is substantially V-shaped.

With regard to claims 7-10, and 17, Kuriyama et al disclose the first notch and the second notch receiving lead portions respectively of the movable (5) and fixed (4) terminals.

With regard to claims 19 and 20, Kuriyama et al disclose a communication device (col. 1, lines 15-17) comprising a coaxial connector (Fig. 7a; col. 1, line 6).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/12/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants argue that the prior art has a notch extending partially not entirely through the insulative case in a thickness direction.

As it was shown in section 1 of this Action, it would be obvious matter of design to extend that notch further.

However, even the existent depth of the notch seems to prevent the capillary effect, since this effect can be developed if the capillary size distance between terminal and the housing is formed continuously starting from the bottom of the housing. The existent depth of the notch seems to prevent forming the capillary effect.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date

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of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander Gilman whose telephone number is (703) 305-847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m - 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7322 for regular communications and (703) 308-7322 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4900.

AG
May 20, 2002


P. AUSTIN BRADLEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800